Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A method of configuring, in a router having a LAN interface and a WAN interface, a physical port for coupling to a network, said method comprising:

receiving a message to configure said physical port for use with said network;

associating, responsive to receiving said message, a set of mapping assignments for using said physical port to access said network; and

implementing said mapping assignments, responsive to associating said mapping assignments, to configure said physical port for coupling to said network,

wherein said implementing step selectively controls whether said physical port is coupled to the LAN interface or the WAN interface.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

storing said mapping assignments.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said network is a Wide Area Network (WAN).

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said network is a Local Area Network (LAN).

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said network is a Local Area Network (LAN) prior to said step of implementing and is a Wide Area Network (WAN) after said step of implementing.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using an Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) SET command.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) data.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said message is created after detecting at least one hardware switch setting change.

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said message is implemented using a router proprietary command message.

10. (Currently amended) A router having a physical port for coupling to a network and further having a LAN interface and a WAN interface, said router comprising:

means for receiving a message to configure said physical port for use with said network;

means for associating, responsive to receiving said message, a set of mapping assignments for using said physical port to access said network; and

means for implementing said mapping assignments, responsive to associating said mapping assignments, to configure said physical port for coupling to said network,

wherein said implementing means selectively controls whether said physical port is coupled to the LAN interface or the WAN interface.

11. (Currently amended) A router comprising:

processor, memory, and support circuitry having a WAN/LAN port manager ~~(225)~~;

a LAN interface;

a WAN interface; and

a plurality of physical ports selectively connectable to said LAN interface or said WAN interface,

wherein said WAN/LAN port manager selectively controls whether each of said plurality of physical ports is coupled to said LAN interface or said WAN interface responsive to a configuration message.

12. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said implementing step

changes the physical port from a secure type physical port to a non-secure type physical port or from the non-secure type physical port to the secure type physical port.

13. (Previously presented) The router of claim 10, wherein said implementing means changes the physical port from a secure type physical port to a non-secure type physical port or from the non-secure type physical port to the secure type physical port.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said implementing step changes the physical port from a WAN type physical port to a LAN type physical port or from the LAN type physical port to the WAN type physical port.

15. (Previously presented) The router of claim 10, wherein said implementing means changes the physical port from a WAN type physical port to a LAN type physical port or from the LAN type physical port to the WAN type physical port.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said implementing step alters an initial designation of the physical port by a manufacturer of the router as one of a LAN type port or a WAN type port to one of the WAN type port or the LAN type port, respectively.

17. (Previously presented) The router of claim 10, wherein said implementing means alters an initial designation of the physical port by a manufacturer of the router as one of a LAN type port or a WAN type port to one of the WAN type port or the LAN type port, respectively.